



## The Central Canal Towpath

One of the best bike paths  
in the world!

**H**eaded away from White River State Park, go north on the White River Greenway trail. On your way to the short, Central Canal Towpath, easily one of the top Greenway stretches in all the world, you will ride past the rapids at the decommissioned Emrichsville Dam of 1899.



Behind you, there is the old Bush baseball stadium that, complete with its old lighting towers, looks a lot like it did from 1931 to 1996 but now serves as a condominium lodging complex. It was here in 1952, that a young Hank Aaron played his first ever professional baseball games.

After the baseball park, on the other side of 16th St., on one side of the trail is a golf course, Taggart Memorial, an outdoor performing arts amphitheater and a mammoth city park.

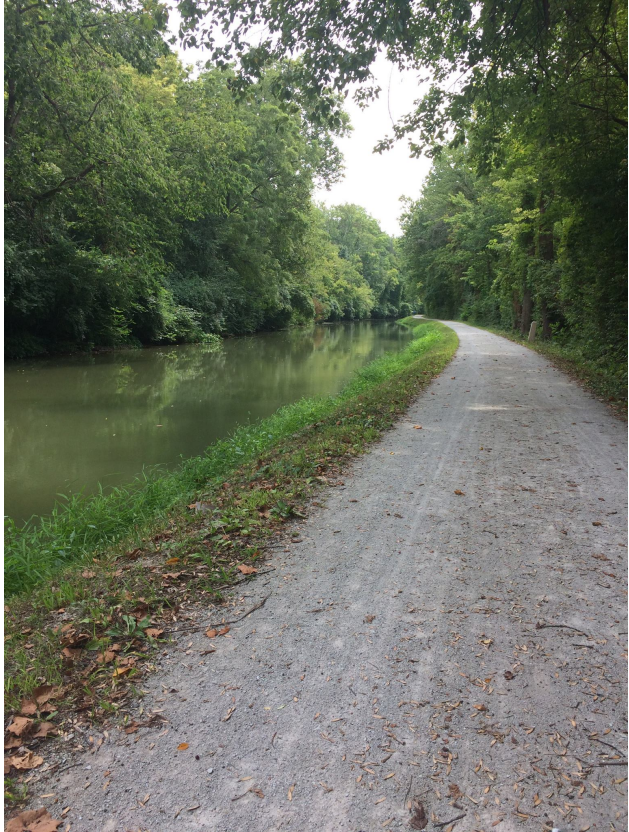




Called Riverside Park, it is filled with play structures, ballfields, endless lawns, an activity center, picnic shelters, basketball courts, even horseshoe pits, etc.

On the other side of the trail and the lightly traveled road, is Lake Indy. A boat launch for the White River, it is a cozy little park with picnic tables and barbecue pits. This, as from start to finish, wildlife is abundant. Herons, several species of turtles, hawks, wood ducks, eagles, muskrats, and other cool critters can all be seen along the way.





After crossing over 29th St at Riverside High School (located in the old Naval Armory Building), once you snake behind it and through the condominium village, you will be on the Central Canal Trail Towpath. Where it crosses over White River Parkway, 6/10 of a mile after the high school, a slice of bicycle heaven begins. Here, on crushed limestone, the old Central Canal towpath will make the world melt away. While trees are a constant throughout most any Indy Greenway journey, here their density is a throwback to 19th Century Indiana. The sycamore, poplar, maple, hickory, ash, mulberry and hackberry, etc, etc all make up for an explosion of joyous green ready to heal your every woe.

It travels for three miles along along an historic, 19th century, man-made tree-shaded waterway. Calm and flat, it even saunters through a part of the beautiful Butler University campus as well as Newfields. Newfields is a 152-acre indoor/outdoor nature preserve. Its campus includes a wooded lake, hiking trails, museums, and gardens, etc.





As the towpath leaves the Butler University campus, it gently gives way to the Indianapolis village-like community of Broad Ripple as your ride winds down for the next few miles. There, it meets the Monon Trail and a large selection of food purveyors and restaurants. After you fill your tank, you can go back the same way you came or you can ride the Monon back to downtown Indianapolis. Either way, you will feel like you had the ultimate bicycle day ride!